

(b) if so, whether his Ministry would encourage and replicate the same all over the country as more that 35 lac such cases are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available information upto 8th April, 2007, more than 62,000 cases have been reportedly disposed of by these evening courts.

(b) Under article 235 of the Constitution, administration of justice is a State subject and the State Government in consultation with its concerned High Court decides all matters concerning operations and setting up of courts. It is for the other State Governments to consider the practice of holding Evening Courts initiated in the State of Gujarat and to emulate/replicate the same in the State with or without modifications. The State Governments have to take a decision in this regard in consultation with their respective High Courts.

Code of conduct for fair and free elections

3416. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission of India has prescribed a code of conduct for conducting fair and free election;

(b) the date since the code is in force;

(c) whether any punishment/penalty/action is provided for under the code or under any law in force, for violation of Code of Conduct;

(d) if so, the details of penalty/punishment/action provided for under the code or under any provision of law for violation of code; and

(e) the number of cases in which penalty/punishment has been imposed on any individual/political parties and the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.